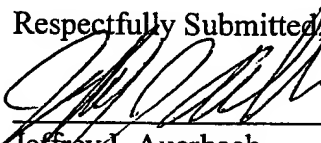


The claims have been amended to specify the amino acid sequence of RANTES (2-68), and to identify that sequence as SEQ ID No. 2. The claims have additionally been amended to expressly encompass variants of that sequence having at least 40 % sequence homology with the sequence of SEQ ID No. 2. Support for this recitation can be found, for example, at page 3, line 23 – page 4, line 10. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

New claims 17-28, and the amendment to claim 14 are supported in the specification, for example, at page 5, line 30 – page 6, line 13. No new matter has been added by the newly added claims or by the amendment to claim 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for further consideration, and earnestly solicit early notice of favorable action. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned regarding any issue in this case.

Date: 10/4/2000  
Liniak, Berenato, Longacre & White, LLC  
6550 Rock Spring Drive, Suite 240  
Bethesda, MD 20817  
Telephone: (301) 896-0600  
Facsimile: (301) 896-0607

Respectfully Submitted,  
  
Jeffrey I. Auerbach  
Reg. No. 32,680  
Attorney for Applicants